

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/782,034

Examiner

Carramah J. Quiett

Applicant(s)

CHAPMAN, LEONARD T.

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/01/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 23, 26, 27, 29, and 31 (renumbered claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10, respectively).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20061220.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kenneth Ohriner on Wednesday, December 20, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-11 CANCELED

Claims 24-25 CANCELED

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) A camera support comprising:

- a first housing having a first interior sealed space;
- a first purge gas port on the first housing connecting into the first interior sealed space, for delivering a purge gas into the first interior sealed space;
- a first motor supported by the first housing;
- a second housing having a second interior sealed space, and with the second housing linked to the first motor for rotational movement of the second housing relative to the first housing about a first axis;
- a second motor supported by the second housing;
- a second purge gas port on the second housing connecting into the second interior sealed space, for delivering a purge gas into the second interior sealed space;

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a third housing linked to the second motor for rotational movement of the third housing relative to the second housing about a second axis substantially perpendicular to the first axis;

and

a lock pin moveable between a lock position, where the lock pin extends between the first housing and the second housing, to prevent movement between them, and an unlock position, wherein the lock pin is withdrawn from one of the first and second housings, to allow rotational movement between them.

Claim 28 CANCELED

Claim 30 CANCELED

Claim 31 (NEW) A camera support comprising:

a first housing having a first interior sealed space;

a first purge gas port on the first housing connecting into the first interior sealed space, for delivering a purge gas into the first interior sealed space;

a first motor supported by the first housing;

a second housing having a second interior sealed space, and with the second housing linked to the first motor for rotational movement of the second housing relative to the first housing about a first axis;

a second motor supported by the second housing;

a second purge gas port on the second housing connecting into the second interior sealed space, for delivering a purge gas into the second interior sealed space;

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a third housing linked to the second motor for rotational movement of the third housing relative to the second housing about a second axis substantially perpendicular to the first axis

a first shaft rotatably supported within the first housing, with the second housing attached to the first shaft, and the first shaft sealed against the first housing, a first gear linked to the first shaft through a first clutch, and with the first gear linked to the first motor, and one or more clutch drive pins sealed against the first housing, and moveable from a first position, wherein with first motor drives the first shaft through the first clutch, to a second position, wherein the first shaft can rotate free of the motor.

12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 23, 26, 27, 29, and 31 (renumbered claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10, respectively).

2. **Claims** are allowed, which have been
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 12-14 and 19 are allowed as previously discussed in the previous Office Action (mail date: 09/01/2006).

Claims 18 and 23 are allowed as previously discussed in the previous Office Actions (mail date: 09/01/2006, 10/05/2005, and 3/22/2006).

Claim 26 is allowed because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a camera support comprising a lock pin moveable between a lock position, where the lock pin extends between the first housing and the second housing, to prevent movement between them, and an unlock position, wherein the lock pin is withdrawn from one of the first and second housings, to allow rotational movement between the first housing and the second housing, in combination with other claimed elements.

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Claims 27 and 29 are allowed because they are dependent on claim 26.

Claim 31 is allowed because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a camera support comprising a first shaft rotatably supported within the first housing, with the second housing attached to the first shaft, and the first shaft sealed against the first housing, a first gear linked to the first shaft through a first clutch, and with the first gear linked to the first motor, and one or more clutch drive pins sealed against the first housing, and moveable from a first position, wherein with first motor drives the first shaft through the first clutch, to a second position, wherein the first shaft can rotate free of the motor, in combination with other claimed elements.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carramah J. Quiett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7316. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NgocYen Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CJQ

December 20, 2006



NGOC-YEN VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER